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## **Secretary of Education Glen Thomas Issues Statement on Draft Common Core Standards**

*Reiterates California's commitment to maintaining rigorous academic standards*

Secretary of Education Glen Thomas today issued the following statement regarding the draft English-language arts and mathematics standards released for public comment by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative:

"The draft standards released today represent an important step toward raising the academic bar for students across the country, an effort in which California is pleased to participate. California has some of the nation's most rigorous academic standards, and this initiative to develop and share internationally benchmarked standards will bolster our efforts to prepare all students to compete in the global marketplace. I look forward to working with our partners around the country to review and refine these draft standards to ensure they will help support student success in school and beyond."

In May, Governor Schwarzenegger signed a memorandum of understanding committing California's cooperation and participation in the standards' development. At the same time, he sent a letter to the NGA and CCSSO informing them that California will not adopt the final college- and career-readiness standards unless they meet or exceed the state's existing standards for English-language arts and mathematics.

The public comment period is open until October 21. Interested parties may provide feedback on the draft standards at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

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